

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 PA-01 ICAE-00 L-03
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /048 W
-----067956 281616Z /66
O 281540Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3663

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 14999

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: APOU, PINT, SOPN, UR
SUBJECT: MFA COMPLAINT ON CORRESPONDENT'S USE OF POUCH

REF: MOSCOW 13510

1. AT SOVIET REQUEST, P&C COUNSELOR AND PRESS ATTACHE
CALLED JUNE 28 ON MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT FIRST DEPUTY
CHIEF LEV VLADISLAVOVICH KRYLOV AND COUNSELOR VITALIY
KONSTANTINOVICH ZHURAVLEV. KRYLOV MADE ORAL STATEMENT,
COPY OF WHICH WAS NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO EMBOFFS.
FOLLOWING IS CLOSE APPROXIMATION OF CONTENT FROM NOTES
TAKEN AT THE TIME:

--MFA CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO DIRECT EMBASSY'S ATTEN-
TION TO FACT DIRECTLY CONCERNING EMBASSY AND NEW YORK
TIMES CORRESPONDENT DAVID SHIPLER. A BUILDING MANAGER,
FROLOV, FOUND ON STREET A PACKET BELONGING TO SHIPLER
AND TURNED IT INTO 17TH DISTRICT MILITSIA STATION. AS
NOTED IN PROTOCOL (COPY OF WHICH WAS "UNOFFICIALLY"
MADE AVAILABLE BY KRYLOV), PACKET CONTAINED LETTERS
DIRECTED TO SOVIET CITIZENS ENGAGED IN ANTI-SOCIAL
ACTIVITY AND SOME ANTI-SOVIET PRINTED MATERIALS.
JUDGING BY ADDRESS ON PACKET (AMEMBASSY, BOX M,
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HELSINKI), SHIPLER ACTING AS INTERMEDIARY, USING MAILS
AND DIPLOMATIC POUCH AS CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION FOR
SOVIET CITIZENS. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THIS IS ILLEGAL
AND IN VIOLATION OF NORMS FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS
RESIDENT IN USSR. MILITSIA INFORMED SHIPLER OF FIND-
ING OF PACKET BUT SHIPLER DECLINED WITHOUT EXPLANATION
TO GET INTO CONTACT WITH MILITSIA. IF EMBASSY WISHES,

ITS REPRESENTATIVES CAN EXAMINE PACKET'S CONTENTS AT 17TH DISTRICT MILITSIA STATION, WHERE THEY ARE BEING RETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH AN INVESTIGATION. MFA DIRECTS EMBASSY'S ATTENTION TO THIS ILLEGAL USE OF DIPLOMATIC POUCH FOR CONTACTING SOVIET CITIZENS AND DEMANDS THAT EMBASSY TAKE STEPS TO SEE THAT SUCH ILLEGAL USE CEASES. EMBASSY MUST OBSERVE HOST COUNTRY REGULATIONS AND DIPLOMATIC NORMS.

2. FOLLOWING KRYLOV'S READING OF ABOVE STATEMENT, HE PUSHED ACROSS TABLE COPY OF PROTOCOL (WHICH, AS NOTED ABOVE, EMBOFFS WERE PERMITTED TO RETAIN) AND XEROX OF ADDRESS LABEL ON PACKET. LABEL SHOWED SHIPLER'S HELSINKI ADDRESS, WITH RETURN ADDRESS THAT OF NEW YORK TIMES IN NYC (LABEL IN FACT LOOKED TO BE STOCK TIMES ADHESIVE MAILING LABEL, WITH SHIPLER'S ADDRESS TYPED IN). PROTOCOL, SIGNED BY "FINDER" OF PACKET AND MILITSIA INVESTIGATOR, LISTED TEN ITEMS AS HAVING BEEN IN PACKET:

--1. LETTER "TO DAVID FROM STEVE"

--2. LETTER TO ROY MEDVEDEV

--3. LETTER TO ROY MEDVEDEV, TYPED

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--4. BOOK BY ANDREY SAKHAROV "TREVOGA I NADEZHDA" PUBLISHED BY KHRONIKA PUBLISHING HOUSE IN NEW YORK, 1977

--5. BOOK BY MARIYA IOFFE, "ODNA NOCH", ALSO BY KHRONIKA 1978

--6. NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

--7. LETTER TO LARIN

--8. LETTER IN ENGLISH

--9. CLIPPING FROM NEWSPAPER "RUSSKOYE SLOVO" WITH ARTICLE BY VOLODARSKIY ENTITLED "TRI TRAGEDII"

--10. RADIOSEMINAR NUMBER 443 OF RADIO LIBERTY ABOUT N. I. BUKHARIN.

3. IN DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED, KRYLOV REPEATED OFFER MADE IN STATEMENT FOR EMBOFFS TO EXAMINE MATERIALS AT MILITSIA STATION BUT THAT MATERIALS "CANNOT BE TURNED

OVER BECAUSE OF THEIR ANTI-SOVIET NATURE."
EMBOFFS MADE NO COMMENT ON OFFER. IN RESPONSE TO P&C
COUNSELOR'S QUERIES, KRYLOV SAID THAT MFA HAD NOT RPT
NOT BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SHIPLER ON THIS MATTER ("THAT
IS THE EMBASSY'S JOB") AND HE REPEATED ASSERTION THAT
ALTHOUGH MILITSIA HAD PHONED SHIPLER, LATTER HAD NOT
FOLLOWED UP (REFTEL).

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 PA-01 ICAE-00 L-03
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /048 W
-----067964 281617Z /66

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 14999

4. P&C COUNSELOR TOLD KRYLOV THAT EMBASSY HAS MADE AND
WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE "EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE
DIPLOMATIC POUCH IS USED PROPERLY". CONCERNING
PACKET, HOWEVER, THE PROPER RELATIONSHIP IS BETWEEN
SHIPLER AND 17TH DISTRICT MILITSIA STATION. IT IS,
SAID COUNSELOR, "THEIR BUSINESS". BUT MFA COMMENTS
ON USE OF POUCH WILL BE GIVEN CAREFUL STUDY SINCE
AMERICAN SIDE "TAKES PROPER USE OF POUCH VERY
SERIOUSLY." HE ALSO "GUARANTEED" THAT EMBASSY WOULD
RAISE ISSUE WITH SHIPLER. KRYLOV'S PARTING COMMENT
WAS THAT MFA HAD "TOLD YOU WHAT WE FELT IT WAS OUR
DUTY TO -- THE REST IS YOUR BUSINESS."

5. SHIPLER CAME BY EMBASSY SHORTLY AFTER EMBOFFS RE-
TURNED FROM MFA AND MATTER WAS DISCUSSED WITH HIM.
REPORT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, JOURNALISTS, POUCH SERVICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW14999
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780267-0813
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780612/aaaaakau.tel
Line Count: 164
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2b3b4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 13510
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2180289
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MFA COMPLAINT ON CORRESPONDENT'S USE OF POUCH
TAGS: APOU, PINT, SOPN, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2b3b4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014